

Version with markings to show changes made.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

- On Page 1, line 9, please delete the word “here” and replace with –There–.
- On Page 6, line 3, please delete the word “the” before the word “clip”.
- On Page 6, line 21 please insert the word –the– between “Therefore,” and “user”.
- On Page 9, line 2 please delete the word “to” and replace with –within–.
- On Page 9, line 4, please delete “600attached” and replace with –600 attached–.
- On Page 9, line 5, please delete the word “an” between “shows” and “support” and replace with –a–.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claim 12 without prejudice

- 2. (Amended) The headphone support element according claim 1 further comprising a first side and a second side, wherein each side of the headphone support element extends perpendicular to the first receptacle, thereby preventing the headphone connector from moving within the first receptacle when the headphone connector is connected to the headphone connector interface.
- 5. (Amended) The headphone support element according to claim 1 wherein the headphone support element is integrally formed within [the] an electronic device.
- 6. (Amended) An electronic device having a headphone connector interface for accepting a headphone connector, the electronic device comprising: a headphone support element coupled with the headphone connector interface, the headphone support element having a first receptacle for engaging and securing the headphone connector within, the headphone support element having a first side and a second side, wherein the headphone connector cannot move or rotate when connected to the headphone connector interface.

7. (Amended) The electronic device according to claim [5] 6 wherein each side of the headphone support element extends perpendicular to the first receptacle, thereby preventing the headphone connector from moving within the first receptacle when the headphone connector is connected to the interface.
9. (Amended) The [headphone support element] electronic device according to claim [5] 6 wherein the headphone support element is made of an elastic material.
10. (Amended) The [headphone support element] electronic device according to claim [5] 6 wherein the headphone support element further comprises a threaded hole portion adapted to fit within the electronic device, the headphone support element coupled to the electronic device by tightening a screw into a threaded hole portion when the threaded hole portion is within the electronic device.
11. (Amended) The [headphone support element] electronic device according to claim [5] 6 wherein the headphone support element is coupled to the electronic device by an adhesive.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Amended) The method according to claim [12] 15 wherein the headphone support element further comprises a first side and a second side, wherein each side of the headphone support element extends perpendicular to the first receptacle, thereby preventing the headphone connector from moving within the first receptacle when the headphone connector is connected to the interface.
14. (Amended) The [electronic device] method according to claim 13 wherein the headphone support element further comprises a second receptacle for engaging and securing a headphone connector wire, the second receptacle having a third side and a fourth side, wherein each side extends substantially perpendicular to the second receptacle.

15. (New) A method of securing a headphone connector to a headphone connector interface, comprising the steps of:
 - a. providing a headphone support element; and
 - b. coupling the headphone support element to the headphone connector interface, wherein the headphone support element includes a first receptacle for engaging and securing the headphone connector to the headphone connector interface thereby preventing the headphone connector from moving or rotating when connected to the headphone connector interface.
16. (New) The method according to claim 15 wherein the headphone support element is coupled to the headphone connector interface by tightening a screw into a threaded hole portion when the threaded hole portion is configured within an electronic device.
17. (New) The method according to claim 15 wherein the headphone support element is coupled to the headphone connector interface by an adhesive.
18. (New) The method according to claim 15 wherein the headphone support element is integrally formed within an electronic device.
19. (New) The electronic device according to claim 6 wherein the headphone support element is integrally formed within the electronic device.
20. (New) A system for coupling a remote device having a male plug to an electronic device having a female jack, wherein the remote device is electrically coupled to the electronic device by inserting the male plug into the female jack, the system comprising a support element mounted to the electronic device such that the support element mechanically engages the male plug and prevents the male plug from rotating relative to the female jack.

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REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request further examination and consideration in view of the above amendments and the arguments set forth fully below. Prior to this Office Action, Claims 1-14 were pending in this application. Within the Office Action, Claims 1-10, 12 and 13 were rejected, and Claim 11 was objected to. By the above amendment, Applicants have amended Claims 2, 6, 7, 9-11, 13 and 14. Applicants have cancelled Claim 12 without prejudice and added Claims 15-20. Therefore, Claims 1-11 and 13-20 are currently pending in this application. Applicants have also amended the specification of the present invention, as shown above. Particularly, Applicants have corrected misspellings, improper grammar and inconsistencies found in the specification.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Within the Office Action, Claims 1-3, 5-8 and 12-14 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,504,812 to Vangarde (hereinafter "Vangarde"). Specifically, it is stated within the Office Action that Vangarde discloses a headphone support element 24 for securing a headphone connector 24 to a headphone connector interface 26 on an electronic device 12 where the headphone has a first receptacle (the receptacle or the space for the leaf spring portion) and a second receptacle (the rectangular housing for the wires). Applicants respectfully traverse.

Vangarde discloses a headset 10 for use with a radiotelephone 12, whereby the headset 10 has a headset detect circuit 33 which determines when the headset connector 24 has been plugged into the radiotelephone's jack 26. (Vangarde, Abstract). In addition, Vangarde discloses that the headset 10 connects to the radiotelephone 12 through a cord 22 having a connector 24 that mates with the jack 26 in the radiotelephone 12. (Vangarde, col. 1, lines 57-59). In other words, Vangarde teaches a two-part system including a rectangularly shaped male plug and a corresponding rectangularly shaped female receptacle. Due to the rectangular shape of these elements, the problem solved by the instant invention is not even present in Vangarde. In fact, Vangarde teaches away from the instant invention.

In contrast to Vangarde, Independent Claim 1 recites a headphone connector (which is preferably a male plug) and a headphone connector (preferably a female jack), whereby the use of conventional plugs and jacks would allow rotation therebetween. To obviate this rotation and thereby avoid introduction of spurious electrical noise, the invention and claim 1 disclose a

headphone support element that is coupled with the headphone connector interface, whereby the headphone support element engages and secures the headphone connector when the headphone connector is connected to the headphone connector interface. Clearly, Vangarde does not envision, contemplate, teach, hint or suggest such construction. Thus, the headphone support element of the present invention cannot be the same component as the headphone connector, since the headphone support element engages and secures the headphone connector to the headphone connector interface. For at least these reasons, the Independent Claim 1 is not anticipated by Vangarde. Therefore, Independent Claim 1 is in a condition for allowance.

Claims 2, 3 and 5 are also rejected as being anticipated under Vangarde. However Claims 2, 3 and 5 are dependent on an allowable independent Claim 1. As stated above, Claim 1 is in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Claims 2, 3 and 5 are also in a condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 6 has also been rejected as being anticipated under Vangarde. Independent Claim 6 recites an electronic device having a headphone connector interface for accepting a headphone connector, the electronic device comprising: a headphone support element coupled with the headphone connector interface, the headphone support element having a first receptacle for engaging and securing the headphone connector within, the headphone support element having a first side and a second side, wherein the headphone connector cannot move or rotate when connected to the headphone connector interface.

In contrast to Vangarde, Independent Claim 6 recites a headphone support element which couples with the headphone connector interface, whereby the headphone support element engages and secures the headphone connector within the headphone support element when the headphone connector is connected to the headphone connector interface. Vangarde only discloses a headphone jack 26 and a headphone connector 24, and does not teach a headphone support element, as claimed in Independent Claim 6. (Vangarde, Figure 1). In addition, it is incorrectly stated within the Office Action that both the headphone support element and the headphone connector in Figure 1 of Vangarde is denoted as reference 24. The headphone support element in the present application is preferably a separate piece from the headphone connector, as shown in Figures 3a-3c. In addition, the headphone support element in the present application serves to engage and secure the headphone connector to the headphone connector interface. Moreover, the headphone support element in the present application is coupled with the headphone connector interface. Thus, the headphone support element of the present invention cannot be the same component as the headphone connector, since the headphone

support element engages and secures the headphone connector to the headphone connector interface. For at least these reasons, the Independent Claim 6 is not anticipated by Vangarde. Therefore, Independent Claim 6 is in a condition for allowance.

Claims 7 and 8 are also rejected as being anticipated under Vangarde. However Claims 7 and 8 are dependent on an allowable independent Claim 6. Dependent claims 9, 10 and 11 have been amended to be dependent on Claim 6, and dependent claim 20 has been added and is dependent on Independent Claim 6. As stated above, Claim 6 is in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Claims 7-11 and 20 are also in a condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 12 has also been rejected as being anticipated under Vangarde. Applicants have cancelled Claim 12 and Applicants have added new Independent Claim 15. Independent Claim 15 recites a method for securing a headphone connector to a headphone connector interface, comprising the steps of: providing a headphone support element; and coupling the headphone support element to the headphone connector interface, wherein the headphone support element includes a first receptacle for engaging and securing the headphone connector to the headphone connector interface thereby preventing the headphone connector from moving or rotating when connected to the headphone connector interface. Applicants submit that Independent Claim 15 is allowable over Vangarde for the reasons stated above.

Applicants have amended dependent claim 13 to be dependent on Independent Claim 15. In addition, Applicants have added dependent claims 16-18, which are dependent on Independent Claim 15. As stated above, Claim 15 is in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Claims 13-14 and 16-18 are also in a condition for allowance.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Within the Office Action, Claims 1, 4-5 and 9 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being obvious in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,091,832 to Shurman et al. (hereinafter "Shurman"). The Applicants respectfully traverse.

Specifically, it is stated within the Office Action that Shurman discloses a headphone support element 58, 60 made of elastic material and for securing a headphone connector 88 to a headphone connector interface on an electronic device (headset).

The Shurman reference discloses a personal audio apparatus which includes a U-shaped loop member 50 having side support members 58, 60. (Shurman, Abstract). Shurman discloses a plurality of sets of quick-connect interface ports 82 disposed around the loop member 50 to selectively receive a plurality of external audio transducer modules 88. (Shurman, Abstract).

Particularly, Shurman discloses that each quick-connect interface port 82 has two receiving holes for receiving two external pins 84, 86 of the module 88. (Shurman, col. 2, lines 41-47).

Claim 1 is directed to a headphone support element for securing a headphone connector to a headphone connector interface, the headphone support element coupled with the headphone connector interface, wherein the headphone support element having a first receptacle for engaging and securing the headphone connector, wherein the headphone connector cannot move or rotate when connected to the headphone connector interface.

Shurman does not teach a receptacle for engaging and securing the headphone connector to the interface. Shurman only teaches that the quick-connect interface port 82 has two holes for accepting the two pins 84, 86 of the module 88. (Shurman, col. 7, lines 41-47). As stated in the specification of the present invention, the receptacle 402 in the support element 400 houses a headphone jack plug or connector 99 (Fig. 3a), whereas the headphone connector accepts the plug itself. (Specification, Page 8, Lines 1-2; Figures 3a-3c). The lower segment 406 of the receptacle 402 secures the larger portion of the headphone connector 99. (Specification, Page 8, Lines 3-4; Figures 3a-3c). Moreover, the lower segment 406 of the receptacle 402 preferably has a left side and a right side, whereby each side preferably contours inward toward each other. (Specification, Page 8, Lines 6-7; Figures 3a-3c). The lower segment 406 is preferably contoured to have more space between the sides to house the lower portion of the headphone connector 99. (Specification, Page 8, 11-12; Figures 3a-3c). The receptacle 402 has an opening to allow the headphone connector 99 to connect with the headphone jack or interface 414 of the electronic device 100. (Specification, Page 8, Line 12-14; Figures 3a-3c).

In contrast to Claim 1, Shurman teaches that the support members 58, 60 are part of the loop member. Specifically, Shurman describes the support members 58, 60 as follows:

A pair of side support members 58 and 60 are jointed to the arcuate member 56 to form the U-shape of the loop member 50. In the illustrated embodiment, the side support member 58 includes a receiving hole 62 which receives a hinge pin 64 of the arcuate member 56. Similarly, the side support member 60 defines a receiving hole 66 which receives a hinge pin 68 of the arcuate member 56. The pin receiving holes 62 and 66 cooperate with the hinge pins 64 and 68 to form hinges for jointing the side support members 58 and 60 to the arcuate member 56.

(Shurman, col. 7, lines 20-31). From this description, Shurman does not teach a headphone support element for securing a headphone connector to a headphone connector interface, since the side support members 58 and 60 are coupled to the member 56 to form the loop member 50.

In addition, Shurman does not teach that the headphone support element is coupled with the headphone connector interface, as claimed in Claim 1. As described in Shurman, the side support members 58, 60 include an earpiece 70 and 72, but do not teach that the support elements are coupled to the interface ports 82. In fact, Shurman teaches away from the headphone support element being coupled to the headphone connector interface, because the interface ports 82 are within the support members 58, 60 themselves, and the support members 58, 60 are coupled to the arcuate member 56. Therefore, the support members 58, 60 in Shurman are not coupled to the headphone connector interface, as claimed in Claim 1. For at least these reasons, Claim 1 is not anticipated by Shurman. Therefore, Claim 1 is in a condition for allowance.

Claims 4-5 and 9 are also rejected under Shurman. Claim 9 has been amended to be dependent on Claim 6. Claims 4-5 are dependent on an allowable independent Claim 1. Claim 9 is dependent on an allowable independent Claim 6. As stated above, Claims 1 and 6 are in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Claims 4-5 and 9 are also in a condition for allowance.

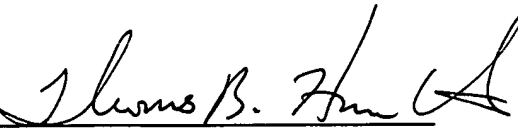
Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Within the Office Action, Claim 10 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,091,832 to Shurman et al. (hereinafter "Shurman"). The Applicants respectfully traverse. Claim 10 has been amended to be dependent on Independent Claim 6. As stated above, Claim 6 is in a condition for allowance. Accordingly, Claim 10 is also in a condition for allowance.

For the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submit that the Claims 1-11 and 13-18 are in a condition for allowance, and allowance at an early date would be appreciated. Should the Examiner have any questions or comments, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned at (650) 833-0160 to discuss the same so that any outstanding issues can be expeditiously resolved.

Respectfully submitted,
HAVERSTOCK & OWENS LLP

Dated: 11-15-01

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